EDUCATION

Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide

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Dragon Age Origins Gift Guide: Earning Loyalty Through Thoughtful Presents

In the dark and politically charged world of Dragon Age: Origins, the bonds you forge with your companions are just as important as the blade you wield. While dialogue choices and quest decisions certainly shape your relationships, there is one mechanic that often goes overlooked by new players: the gifting system. A well-timed present can turn a chilly rival into a steadfast ally, and a deep understanding of this system can unlock powerful benefits for your party. This Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide is designed to help you navigate the intricacies of companion approval, ensuring that you never waste a valuable item on the wrong character.

The gifting system in Dragon Age: Origins is straightforward but nuanced. Each companion has a set of preferred gifts, often tied to their personal history, values, or emotional wounds. Giving them a gift that resonates with their background yields a significant approval boost, while a generic or mismatched gift yields little to no gain. Since approval directly impacts companion loyalty, romance options, and even whether they remain in your party, mastering the art of the gift is essential for any Grey Warden.

Why Gifts Matter in Dragon Age: Origins

Approval is the currency of companionship in Dragon Age: Origins. High approval unlocks personal quests, romance dialogues, and stat bonuses. Low approval can lead to bickering, refusal to follow orders, or outright betrayal. Gifts are one of the fastest ways to raise approval, especially for companions you have not yet aligned with through dialogue. However, the key is to match the gift to the recipient. This Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide will break down exactly what each character loves, where to find these items, and how to use them strategically.

It is worth noting that gifts are permanent items that are consumed upon use. You cannot retrieve them, so choosing wisely is critical. Some gifts can be purchased from merchants, while others are looted from chests, enemies, or discovered in hidden locations throughout Ferelden. Paying attention to item descriptions is often the first clue to a gift's intended recipient.

Companion Gift Preferences: A Complete Breakdown

The following section details every major companion in Dragon Age: Origins and the gifts they appreciate most. Use this Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide as a reference whenever you acquire a new item with a suspiciously personal description.

Alistair: The Reluctant Prince

Alistair, the former templar and secret prince, is one of the most beloved characters in the game. He responds well to gifts that remind him of his past or that appeal to his sense of humor and duty.

- Alistair's Mother's Amulet: This is arguably the most powerful gift for Alistair. It can be found in the Redcliffe Village during the quest "The Arl of Redcliffe." It is located in a chest inside the Chantry. This gift grants a massive approval boost and is tied directly to his personal history.
- Alistair's Sister's Locket: Found in Denerim during the "Stolen Urn" questline, this locket reminds Alistair of his half-sister Goldanna. It provides a strong approval increase.

- Sword of the Grey Wardens: While not exclusive to Alistair, this weapon gives him a noticeable approval boost due to his deep respect for the Grey Warden order. It can be crafted or found in the late game.
- Black Dragon Scale: A crafting material that Alistair appreciates if given as a gift. It is somewhat of an easter egg for players who want to humor his love for dragons.

When using this Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide for Alistair, remember that he also values gifts that are humorous or related to his templar training. Avoid giving him anything associated with blood magic or the darker aspects of Ferelden's history.

Morrigan: The Witch of the Wilds

Morrigan is a complex and pragmatic character. She values knowledge, power, and items that reflect her connection to nature and the arcane. She despises sentimentality and weakness.

- Grimoire of the Witch: This is Morrigan's ultimate gift. It is a special book that directly references her mother, Flemeth. You can find it in the Circle Tower, specifically in Irving's office after the Harrowing. This gift yields one of the highest approval boosts in the entire game.
- Silver Brooch: A simple but elegant piece of jewelry that Morrigan appreciates because it is practical and has monetary value. Found in the Brecilian Forest.
- Gold Amulet: Found in various locations, this amulet appeals to Morrigan's appreciation for valuable trinkets.
- Rare Herbs: Items like "Felandaris" or "Embrium" can be given to Morrigan as gifts. She respects anyone who understands the value of natural resources.
- Dragon Teeth: These are practical and powerful crafting components that Morrigan respects. They can be looted from dragons.

A critical tip from this Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide: Do not give Morrigan soft or sentimental gifts. She will actively disapprove if you give her something she considers frivolous. Stick to items that are rare, powerful, or intellectually valuable.

Leliana: The Devout Bard

Leliana is a woman of faith, art, and beauty. She has a refined taste and appreciates gifts that speak to her spirituality or her past as a bard in Orlais.

- Andraste's Grace: This is a rare flower that can be found in the Brecilian Forest and in the Temple of Sacred Ashes. It is Leliana's most prized gift, yielding a massive approval boost. The flower symbolizes her devotion to the Maker.
- Rare Feather: This gift is appreciated by Leliana for its beauty and association with birds, which she keeps as pets. Found in various locations, including the Orzammar Commons.
- Nug's Paw: A humorous gift that Leliana finds endearing. It shows a playful side and gives a moderate approval boost.
- Orlesian Bard Armor: This armor, found in Denerim, reminds Leliana of her past as a bard. It gives a strong approval boost.
- Silver Medallion: A simple but elegant piece that Leliana appreciates for its craftsmanship.

Leliana responds well to gifts that are beautiful or have a story behind them. Avoid giving her anything crude or violent, as it will clash with her reformed personality. This Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide recommends prioritizing Andraste's Grace above all other gifts for her.

Sten: The Qunari Warrior

Sten is a Qunari soldier who values discipline, strength, and purpose. He has little patience for frivolity and responds best to gifts that have practical value or symbolize honor.

- Painting of the Divine: This is a unique painting found in the Redcliffe Castle. Sten finds it deeply intriguing because it represents a concept foreign to the Qun. He will appreciate this gift greatly, though his reaction is typically dry.
- White Silk Handkerchief: Found in the Gauntlet in the Temple of Sacred Ashes, this handkerchief reminds Sten of a story about a woman back home. It gives a strong approval boost and is one of the few sentimental items he likes.
- Gifts of Practical Value: Any weapon or armor that is powerful and well-crafted will earn approval from Sten. He respects strength and utility.
- Dragon Scales: Similar to other companions, Sten appreciates powerful crafting materials that come from formidable foes.

Sten is one of the more difficult characters to please with gifts, as his preferences are narrow. This Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide suggests focusing on the Painting of the Divine and the handkerchief as your primary gifting options for him.

Oghren: The Dwarven Berserker

Oghren is a hard-drinking, hard-fighting dwarf with a rough exterior and a wounded heart. He responds best to gifts that involve alcohol, combat, or dwarven culture.

- Ale Keg: This is Oghren's top gift. An entire keg of ale is the fastest way to his heart. It can be found in Orzammar or purchased from certain merchants. The approval boost is enormous.
- Oghren's Helmet: This helmet is looted from a chest in the Orzammar Royal Palace during the "A Paragon of Her Kind" quest. It gives a huge approval boost and is tied to his personal history.
- Stone of Valos: A dwarven relic that Oghren respects. It is found in the Deep Roads during the "A Paragon of Her Kind" quest.
- Flagon of Ale: A smaller version of the ale keg. Still gives a good approval boost, though not as dramatic as the full keg.
- Combat-Related Gear: Any powerful weapon or armor, especially axes, will earn approval from Oghren.

Oghren is one of the easiest companions to please if you have the right items. This Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide emphasizes that stockpiling ale-related items before entering Orzammar is a wise strategy if you plan to use him in your party.

Wynne: The Elder Mage

Wynne is a wise and compassionate senior enchanter of the Circle Tower. She values knowledge, healing, and items that reflect the Circle's traditions.

- Dragon's Breath Potion Recipe: This rare recipe is found in the Circle Tower. Wynne appreciates it because it represents advanced alchemical knowledge.
- Binder of the Tome: A bookbinding tool found in the Circle Tower. It appeals to Wynne's love of lore and literature.
- Rare Books: Any rare or ancient tome can be given to Wynne for a moderate approval boost.
- Healing Herb: Items like Elfroot or concentrated healing poultices are appreciated by Wynne for their practical use in preserving life.
- Amulet of the Circle: An amulet that represents the Circle of Magi. It can be found in the Circle Tower or purchased.

Wynne is relatively easy to please, as she appreciates many of the same items as other mages. This Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide suggests that you prioritize giving her items related to knowledge and healing rather than combat trophies.

Zevran: The Assassin

Zevran is a charming and pragmatic Antivan Crow. He appreciates gifts that are valuable, beautiful, or have a connection to his homeland.

- Antivan Leather Boots: These boots are found in the Pearl in Denerim. They remind Zevran of his homeland and give a strong approval boost.
- Silver Chain: A valuable and elegant piece of jewelry that Zevran appreciates for its aesthetic and monetary worth.
- Dragon Tooth Dagger: A powerful weapon that Zevran respects for its craftsmanship and lethality.
- Gold Coin: Surprisingly, Zevran appreciates being given coin directly. It shows that you understand his pragmatic nature.
- Elegant Weapons: Daggers, bows, or other weapons that are well-crafted and stylish will earn his approval.

Zevran values style and substance. Avoid giving him crude or sentimental gifts. This Dragon Age Origin Gift Guide recommends the Antivan Leather Boots as the single best gift for him, followed by any valuable jewelry.

Shale: The Stone Golem

Shale is a unique companion who was once a dwarf but is now trapped in a golem's body. This character is only available with the Stone Prisoner DLC. Shale appreciates items that relate to its past or to golems in general.

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